

# Priscilla Howe

## storyteller



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*All my stories start with a seed of truth.*

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National Storytelling Network  
132 Boone St. Ste. 5  
Jonesborough, Tenn. 37659

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to offer my unqualified support to the nomination of Storyteller.net for the NSN Distinguished National Service Award.

Connection is at the heart of storytelling. Storyteller.net connects story listeners with stories, story listeners with storytellers and storytellers with other storytellers. I've had a page on the site since about 1996, back before many storytellers even had e-mail. Though I now have a website in addition to my Storyteller.net page, I frequently receive e-mails with the subject line "I Saw You at Storyteller.net". Most often, the people who contact me through the site are new to storytelling—they find the site and are fascinated with the variety of stories and storytellers available. Storyteller.net lends itself to prolonged browsing, listening to stories, reading articles about storytelling by storytellers and story lovers.

Sean Buvala, the owner of the site, has consistently been an innovator in the online world, always with an eye to advancing the cause of storytelling. I heard this in 1998, when he was on a panel at the NSN conference, discussing storytelling and technology. Sean created an online amphitheater on the site, stories and audio interviews about storytelling. In 1999, I did an interview from a phone booth at the San Diego conference for Storyteller.net, for those who couldn't make it to the conference. I didn't even know we could do that kind of interview until Sean proposed it. Whenever I see Sean at a conference, he has his trusty PDA, recording interviews with attendees. He now podcasts the amphitheater events. He invites storytellers to leave messages on the site's phone answering machine, for inclusion in the amphitheater. Storyteller.net is also a marketplace for storytellers to sell their recordings and hosts a calendar of events around the country. Most of the services on the site are free, and those for which Sean charges (premium web pages, marketplace) are priced well below other sites on the web? That speaks to Sean's inherent generosity and his mission to spread the word about storytelling.

Storyteller.net is a virtual campfire, a welcoming place for people to gather and share stories. Let's all toast (marshmallows) to Storyteller.net!

Sincerely,  
Priscilla Howe